will be provided to infants free of cost, as is the case for all vaccines under the UIP including Polio Vaccine.

Alternative drug to Botox

2253. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of spastic children in the country as on today;

(b) whether the drug "Botox" is manufactured in the country for treatment of this disease;

(c) whether Government are giving any subsidy for this drug;

(d) whether the drug is available in all parts of the country; and

(e) any other alternative to "Botox" treatment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Based on sample surveys, it is estimated that approximately there are 5 to 6 lakh children with spasticity.

(b) and (c) The drug 'Botox' is imported and not manufactured in the country. The Government is not giving subsidy for purchase of this drug.

(d) No, Sir. Availability of the drug is presently limited to metro and bigger cities; administration of this drug requires doctors with special training.

(e) Alternative drugs such as baclofen, tizanidine and diazepam are used to reduce spasticity and is effective in mild and moderate cases.